

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2006. Claims 1-3,5-18 and 28, 29 and 31 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3,5, 28, 29 and 31 are amended without adding new matter. Claims 4, 27, 30 and 32 are canceled. Claims 19-26 and 33 are withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 4-5, 12, and 30-31 are objected by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 30 have been canceled and the limitations of claims 4 and 30 has been included in the amended independent claims 1 and 28 respectively.

Since independent claims 1 and 28 have been amended to be placed in condition for allowance, the objection of dependent claims 5, 12 and 31 is deemed obviated and are also in condition for allowance.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 27-29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0038718 to Kumar et al. (hereinafter

“Kumar”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,652,717 to Miller et al. (hereinafter “Miller”) or U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0060784A1 to Pack et al. (hereinafter “Pack”).

As stated above, claims 27 and 32 are canceled. Also, independent claims 1 and 28 have been amended to add the limitations of the objected to claims 4 and 30 respectively, which have been canceled. Thus, this rejection of claims 1 and 28 and the claims depending therefrom is deemed obviated and claims 1-3, 28-29 are now in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar in view of (Miller or Pack) and U.S. Patent No. 6078701 to Hsu et al. (hereinafter “Hsu”).

Since, the amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicant submits that the dependent claims 15 and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons as advanced allowability of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 15 and 16.

C. Claims 6-11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar in view of (Miller or Pack) and U.S. Patent No. 5,999,662 to Burt et al. (hereinafter “Burt”).

Since, the amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicant submits that the dependent claims 6-11 and 13-14 are allowable for at least the same reasons as advanced allowability of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 6-11 and 13-14.

D. Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35. U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar in view of (Miller or Pack) and anyone of U.S. Patent No. 5995681 to Lee et al. (hereinafter “Lee”), U.S. Patent No. 5251271 to Fling (hereinafter “Fling”) or U.S. Patent No. 6759979 to Vashisth et al . (hereinafter “Vashisth”).

Since, the amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicant submits that the dependent claims 17-18 are allowable for at least the same reasons as advanced allowability of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 17-18.

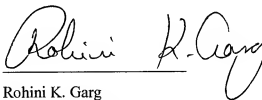
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Claims 1-3, 5-18, 28-29 and 31 are submitted to be allowable. Reconsideration and favorable action in this regard are therefore earnestly solicited.

If any additional fee is deemed necessary for this Amendment to be entered and considered by the Examiner, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. **501358**.

Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached by telephone at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rohini K. Garg", is written over a horizontal line.

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